

Introduced by Senator Machado

February 19, 2003

An act to amend Sections 65591 and 65591.5 of, to amend the heading of Article 10.8 (commencing with Section 65591) of Division 1 of Title 7 of, and to add Section 65591.3 to, the Government Code, relating to water conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 312, as introduced, Machado. Urban Landscape Water Conservation Act of 2003.

Existing law, known as the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act, requires the Department of Water Resources to adopt a model local water efficient landscape ordinance which each local agency may adopt and requires a local agency to adopt a water efficient landscape ordinance by January 1, 1993, unless the local agency adopts specified findings that an ordinance is unnecessary.

This bill would rename the act as the Urban Landscape Water Conservation Act of 2003 and would declare the Legislature's intent to modify the model water efficient landscape ordinance developed pursuant to the act to better promote the efficient use of water in the landscape while respecting the economic, environmental, aesthetic, and lifestyle choices of individuals and property owners.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Article 10.8 (commencing with Section 65591) of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code is amended to read:

Article 10.8. ~~Water Conservation in Landscaping~~ *Urban Landscape Water Conservation Act of 2003*

SEC. 2. Section 65591 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65591. This article may be cited and shall be known as the ~~Water Conservation in Landscaping Act~~ *Urban Landscape Water Conservation Act of 2003*.

SEC. 3. Section 65591.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65591.3. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Adequate water supply reliability for all uses is essential to the future economic and environmental health of this state.

(b) Developing environmentally and economically sound strategies to meet future water supply and wastewater treatment needs is key to protecting and restoring aquatic resources in this state.

(c) Economic analysis by urban water agencies and the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision have identified urban water conservation as a cost-effective approach to addressing water supply needs.

(d) The CALFED Record of Decision calls for an ambitious statewide urban water use efficiency program, above and beyond the implementation of current best management practices for water use efficiency, and includes linkages that ensure balanced implementation of the 12 CALFED program elements in the four problem areas.

(e) There is a clear public interest in ensuring that the highest practicable level of landscape water use efficiency is achieved throughout the state.

(f) During the 10 years since the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California,” many urban water and wastewater treatment agencies

1 have gained valuable experience that can be applied to produce
2 significant statewide savings of water, energy, and associated
3 infrastructure costs. This experience indicates a need to regularly
4 revise and update water conservation methodologies and
5 practices.

6 (g) Recent advances in landscape design, irrigation technology,
7 and landscape maintenance practices have been developed.

8 (h) Coordination between state and local agencies, as well as
9 the landscape industry, could lead to significantly increased
10 landscape water use efficiency.

11 SEC. 4. Section 65591.5 of the Government Code is amended
12 to read:

13 65591.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
14 Department of Water Resources prepare and promote the use of a
15 model water efficient landscape ordinance which local agencies
16 may adopt.

17 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of
18 Water Resources adopt a model water efficient landscape
19 ordinance based on recommendations from a task force
20 representing the landscape, water, and building industries, local
21 agencies, and others.

22 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task force reach
23 general agreement on those provisions which will be included in
24 the model water efficient landscape ordinance.

25 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task force consider
26 the most recent information on efficient landscape irrigation
27 technologies and those elements of existing water efficient
28 landscape ordinances which have proven successful in reducing
29 water consumption.

30 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature ~~that~~ *to modify* the model
31 water efficient landscape ordinance developed pursuant to this
32 article *to better* promote the most efficient use of water in the
33 landscape while respecting the economic, environmental,
34 aesthetic, and lifestyle choices of individuals and property owners.

